

Charles J. Sweeney, Jr.
60991 S Hwy 97
Bend OR 97702
Phone: 541-389-3599
Fax: 541-318-7435

To: USPTO Agent

I thought of my invention when I was installing my new motorcycle license plate. The mounting bracket (which I previously installed on my motorcycle) was purchased from Drag Specialty. The "lay back" mount came with four bolts, washers, and nuts to apply license plate. Upon installation, I noticed the bolts to mount the license plate were a little too long for my liking. Then remembering I had a piece of plexy glass, I wondered how it might look mounted between the license plate and mounting bracket. I began to cut and shape the plexy glass to fit behind license plate. After installing, I noticed how light came through the 1/4" edge of the plexy glass and I really liked the look and function of it.

My invention is made with the use of plexy glass, (assorted colors are available) purchased from a plastic supply store. My proto-type is made with the color red. I start with a 1/4" x 4' x 8' sheet. I then cut it with a cross-cut power saw to a 4' x 4' sheet. Using a table saw I rip-cut the 4' x 4' sheet into strips 4" wide. With these 4' x 4" strips I then cross-cut them into 7 inches ending up with a 4" x 7" x 1/4" plexy glass plate.

With this 1/4" x 4" x 7" plexy glass plate, I then lay a pattern of a 4" x 7" motorcycle license plate on to it. I use a pencil to outline on the plexy glass plate the four curved corners of the motorcycle license plate. With the outline now transferred to the plexy glass plate, I trim the corners.

To trim corners I use a bench grinder and grind to the pencil outline on the plexy glass plate. This now leaves me with a shape of a motorcycle license plate, which is required by the Department of Transportation (D.O.T.).

I then drill four 1/4" holes on each corner of the plexy glass plate. These holes are drilled at the measurement of 5 3/4" L x 2 3/4" H on center. This is standard for all 4" x 7" motorcycle license plates issued by D.O.T.

My next step is to be sure all holes drilled are in line with the mounting holes of the D.O.T. plate. I then sand and polish the 1/4" edges of the plexy glass plate to a shiny luster. I start this sanding process with 120 grit sand paper and sand all 1/4" edges by hand. Then I sand with 200 grit and less to 400 grit. Next, I rub the edges with 0000# steel wool. This leaves the edges a bit cloudy. To bring out the mirror like shine on the edges, I use a piece of dampened leather and auto rubbing compound. The edges should be completely polished now with no scratches left on them. After inspecting the edges for any scratches, I remove the protective paper from the plexy glass plate. The protective paper is standard on sheets of plexy glass. With the paper removed I wash the plexy glass plate with hot soapy water. My invention is now finished.

The use of the plexy glass plate which I now call a "Hott Plate" is then mounted to the motorcycle. When mounting the "Hott Plate" to the existing motorcycle license plate mounting bracket, I start by removing motorcycle license plate. With the motorcycle license plate off the mounting bracket I place the "Hott Plate" behind it and remount both to the mounting bracket.

My invention is now complete.

DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES

Fig. 1 Shows the front and back view of the spacer plate with this example being of a 4"x7" motorcycle license plate.

Fig. 2 Shows a side view of the spacer plate being used for a 4"x7" motorcycle license plate.

Fig. 3 Shows the top and bottom view of the spacer plate being used for a 4"x7" motorcycle license plate.

PATENT APPLICATION

1-20-04

Charles Joseph Sweeney, Jr.

TITLE: Motor Vehicle License Plate Illuminated Spacer

BACKGROUND – FIELD OF INVENTION

This idea of invention uses absorbed light for a spacer plate, mounted behind license plate, for added visibility and decoration.

BACKGROUND – DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART

Street legal motorized vehicles are required to have light or lights to illuminate rear-mounted license plate. The required illuminated license plate helps identify vehicles operating in darkness. My idea for invention captures this light source through the polished transparent colored edge of Acrulite glass, sometimes referred to as plexiglass. This capture of light by the spacer plate's polished transparent edge is absorbed and now illuminated for added visibility in darkness, and providing a custom look.

Unlike other inventions such as Kevin VerKamps patent # 5,521,799 U.S. classification 362/83.2. My idea requires no built-in or electrical apparatus, just colored light from other sources to illuminate.

Searching through other U.S. classification 358/1.2,40/209, 40/714, 40/546 I found nothing to my understanding of my idea for invention. Most of other inventions require electricity for their process to operate and cast light, whereas my idea collects light. Sun, or light of license plate light, cross traffic at nighttime, virtually any light source is absorbed through the polished transparent edge of the Acrulite glass.

Noting that this spacer plate traces license plate being used with as regards to rounded corners, and size for different dimensions, for different states, and various vehicles used for.

When researching prior art relating to my idea, all need electric power to operate. This added power is a draw to vehicles limit for available electricity. To my knowledge, vehicles that are stock or custom can only handle so much output of electricity before strain is put on vehicle's electrical systems. My idea simply mounts behind license plate for a visually appealing and safer add-on, resulting in a cost-effective, decorative accessory, adding visibility under vehicle operation at night.

My spacer plate would simply mount the same as the license plate that is being used in conjunction with. For this reason, my idea of this spacer plate can vary with the size of license plate. For example, but not limited to motorcycle license plates. Motorcycle license plates can vary from state to state with subtle changes in size. Although most states in America use the same size plate, all are not the same. Even other countries' size of motorized vehicles license plates can differ in size.

Mounting of my spacer plate would simply use the same mounting holes used for the license plate it's being used with. This is possible because the predetermined license plates use a uniform drilling pattern. This uniform drilling of mounting holes creates a general pattern of different vehicle plates for an efficient method of mounting. My spacer plate would simply use the same measurements used for different size license plates for different motorized vehicles. These sizes vary, but not to the degree of making my spacer plate impossible to manufacture. Simple drilling jigs I have already built are used for various sizes of license plates. In a sense my spacer plate is a double of the required motor vehicle license plate it is used with.

SUMMARY, RAMIFICATIONS AND SCOPE

Shown in these figures is the dimension of a 4"x7" motorcycle license plate. These dimensions will vary with different sizes of motorized vehicle license plates. Mounting holes will also be variable according to license plate size.

With respect, the reader will see and take note of the uniqueness of this idea for invention as being novel, decorative, and a useful safety feature. Many variables of this idea of invention should be considered. Adding two or more spacer plates will consequently bring different effects to view. Many options are available with many colors to choose from to match consumers' taste. This one idea has virtually many combinations to choose from.

Therefore, the claims that follow will be the legalese, rather than the examples given above.